No Child Left Behind
How Progress is Measured

The goal of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is to ensure that all students in all schools are academically proficient in math, reading and language arts by 2014. Until that time, schools and districts will be measured on their ability to move toward that goal. In other words, a school must show every year that a greater percentage of its students meet proficiency standards.

Schools must meet proficiency benchmarks in nine subgroups, including five race and ethnic groups; students with disabilities; limited English-proficient students; economically disadvantaged students; and the school as a whole.

Schools that are below the federal benchmarks for one year are called "target schools." A school or district that doesn't show progress in the same category (math, reading/language arts, and attendance or graduation) for two consecutive years will be labeled "high priority." A high priority school or district that shows progress for two years in a row will be removed from the high priority list. When a subgroup does not meet federal benchmarks in reading, language arts or math as determined above, but succeeds in boosting the number of proficient students by 10% or more and also meets the designated additional indicator, the school will be considered to have met standards under a Safe Harbor provision.

K-8 schools will meet federal benchmarks if they demonstrate in all of the subgroups:
- 95% participation rate on all state assessments
- Required proficiency in math as determined by TCAP achievement tests
- Required proficiency in reading/language arts as determined by TCAP achievement tests and writing assessments
- 93% attendance rate for the school year or improvement from the previous year

9th –12th grade schools will meet federal benchmarks if they demonstrate in all of the subgroups:

- 95% participation rate on all state assessments
- Required proficiency in math Gateway tests
- Required proficiency in reading/language arts as determined by English Gateway tests and writing assessments
- 90% graduation rate for the school year or improvement from the previous year